

The Fur Products Labeling Act of 1951 exempts garments with a "relatively small quantity or value" of fur from requiring labels disclosing the name of the species, the manufacturer, the country of origin and other pertinent information for consumers. The Federal Trade Commission defines that value today as \$150—an amount that allows multiple animal pelts on a garment without a label.

Regardless of value, consumers have the right to know if a product they purchase contains real fur. Consumers who may have allergies to fur, ethical objections to fur, or concern about the use of certain species, cannot make informed purchasing choices. Furthermore, the ability for consumers to make well-informed decisions based on complete information is a cornerstone of a functioning market economy.

Importantly, labeling fur trim will not be economically burdensome for apparel manufacturers or retailers. According to the Federal Trade Commission, the total number of fur garments, fur-trimmed garments, and fur accessories sold in the United States is estimated at 3,500,000. Of that, approximately 3,000,000 items—or 86 percent—are already required to abide by labeling requirements. It will not present a difficulty to label the additional 14 percent of products using animal fur. In fact, this legislation may actually increase the efficiency of the manufacturing process because it removes the need to determine an item's value for labeling purposes.

Consumer protection officials and leaders in the retail and fashion industries support fur labeling. Legislation closing the loophole in the Fur Products Labeling Act has been endorsed by Tommy Hilfiger, Burlington Coat Factory, Loehmann's, Buffalo Exchange, House of Deréon, Jay McCarroll, Andrew Marc, and others. Leading designers and businesses understand the need for clear labeling laws to protect consumer confidence in their products. Additionally, the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators (NACAA), an organization representing more than 160 government agencies and 50 corporate consumer offices, recently passed a resolution in support of truthful fur labeling and advertising, including the elimination of loopholes.

It is clear that current regulations undercut consumers' ability to make informed purchases and contributes to the continued presence of dog and cat fur in garments sold in the U.S. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the committee of jurisdiction to bring attention to this issue and enact the needed reforms included in the Truth in Fur Labeling Act of 2009.

#### PERSON EXPLANATION

#### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 18, 2009, I was unable to return to Washington, DC in time to cast my vote for rollcall votes No. 267–269. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes No. 267, H. Res. 300; No. 268, S. 386; and No. 269, H. Res. 442.

#### 21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Schools Facilities Act. In addition to authorizing critical funding for school modernization, this bill also authorizes a specific funding stream of \$600 million over six years for public schools that were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

We know that these funds are critically needed. As Education Week reported, in the hours after Hurricane Katrina struck, more than 100 public schools in New Orleans were flooded. And the roughly two dozen schools that didn't flood suffered wind and rain damage.

Even though it has been nearly four years since the storm, many children continue to attend classes in temporary structures that are ill-suited to providing a 21st Century education. In addition, 21 percent of schools remain closed.

The funds authorized in H.R. 2187 will help put an end to the legacy of damage left by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### RECOGNIZING ROBERTA RAKOVE, RECIPIENT OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION GRASSROOTS CHAMPION AWARD

#### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Roberta Rakove, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, of Sinai Health System for her outstanding leadership in creating grassroots and community activity in support of her hospital's mission. Roberta Rakove was first nominated by the Illinois Hospital Association (IHA), and later awarded by both the IHA and the American Hospital Association (AHA) the Partnership for Action Grassroots Champion Award on April 28, 2009.

The Partnership for Action Grassroots Champion Award was established to recognize hospital leaders who most efficiently inform elected officials of the affect major issues have on a hospital's fundamental role in the community; to recognize hospital leaders who have done an exemplary job in broadening the base of community support for the hospital; and to recognize hospital leaders who continue to advocate on behalf of the hospital and its patients.

Roberta Rakove's commitment to advocating for the hospital community extends to

her 15 years of devotion on IHA's Advocacy Council, DSH Steering Committee, and other membership groups.

For 90 years the hospitals and caregivers of Sinai Health System have provided medical care and social services to communities in west and south Chicago. Sinai Community Institute provides social service outreach for the lifestyle issues that contribute to health while the Sinai Urban Health institute researches the prevalence of chronic disease in Chicago neighborhoods. Collectively, the Sinai Health System provides a full continuum of care for acute, primary, specialty and rehabilitation to meet the needs of the community.

#### MONGOLIA'S DEMOCRACY

#### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, in a vast sweep of mountains, steppe, and desert in the heart of northern Asia, one of the most remarkable political transformations of the decade is unfolding. I rise today to commend democracy in Mongolia. The collapse of communism and totalitarianism has provided Mongolia with a historical opportunity of introducing simultaneous political and economic changes by dismantling the communist regime and central planning economy to build democracy and market capitalism.

Mongolia's democratic transition explicitly indicates that Mongolia has reached remarkable achievements in building democracy and market capitalism.

Mongolia's parliamentary democracy has been playing a meaningful role in building democracy and market capitalism, and civil society has emerged and developed. Mongolia's democratic reforms have been radical and irreversible. Now, Mongolia is committed to successful completion of the final phase of its transition to market capitalism to deepen and strengthen democracy.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in supporting Mongolia's continued transition to democracy.

#### HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD L. KIRCHNER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

#### HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Richard L. Kirchner for his 29 years of service to the Civil Air Patrol. Col. Kirchner retired in February after developing the Anoka Composite Squadron and serving as its Commander three times.

After joining the Civil Air Patrol in 1980, Col. Kirchner started the Anoka Composite Squadron in 1982 with just one member. Today, it stands at nearly 100 members and has produced leaders in the Civil Air Patrol, the U.S. Air Force, in business and the public sector across the country. Col. Kirchner was involved

with every aspect of the Civil Air Patrol including Emergency Services, Aerospace Education and the Cadet program to help develop anyone interested in civil service. I am confident that the Squadron will be led by other fine commanders and engage in new and challenging missions in years to come, standing on the firm foundation laid by Col. Kirchner.

It is my privilege to honor Lieutenant Colonel Richard L. Kirchner for his three decades of dedicated service to the Civil Air Patrol and I want to thank Col. Kirchner for the role he has played in so many Minnesota lives. His commitment to honor and duty, country and community and his nurturing relationship with the members of the Squadron are a model for all of us on how to lead and teach. We are all so grateful for his service.

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#### TAIWAN

### HON. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, May 20, 2009 marks a significant milestone for Taiwan, the first year in office of President Ma Ying-jeou.

What began as a year of confrontation between the Peoples Republic of China and Taiwan, President Ma has become one of cooperation.

The conciliatory initiatives of President Ma has produced, for the first time in decades, face to face productive meetings that have brought about agreement between these former adversaries in a variety of areas; legal, transportation and financial.

Such great progress has not gone unnoticed and President Ma Ying-jeou should be recognized for his leadership.

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IN HONOR OF MR. KIRK FARRA,  
IN-SYNCH SYSTEMS

### HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor America's entrepreneurs, those distinguished individuals who support our communities, drive innovation, and keep our nation strong. Small businesses bring fresh ideas to the table, develop resources to help us meet the demands of an ever-changing world, and make a meaningful impact on our neighborhoods. Entrepreneurs are responsible for providing 60 to 80 percent of all new jobs, giving them the potential to propel rapid economic growth and expand developing fields. Some of the country's largest companies began as start-ups in small offices, homes and garages exploring these new fields. Limited only by their imagination, these firms performed cutting-edge work in emerging industries that have become the very foundation of our society.

As our nation and the world face the most difficult economic conditions in decades, entrepreneurs have the potential to lead us back to prosperity. The resiliency and adaptability shown by small businesses in past recessions

demonstrate their capability to meet the challenges standing in their way and emerge stronger than ever. America's small businesses will drive the economic recovery from this downturn, and I remain confident that our economy will emerge stronger than ever. Times may be tough, but America's entrepreneurial spirit is tougher.

To recognize the monumental achievements of our nation's small firms, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared May 17–23 as the 46th Annual National Small Business Week. The House Small Business Committee is celebrating all our country's hard-working entrepreneurs by saluting the Heroes of Small Business, those men and women who have shown the strength, leadership, and resourcefulness that keeps our economy moving forward.

I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing and thanking Mr. Kirk Farra for his tremendous accomplishments on behalf of small businesses. Mr. Farra is president of In-Synch Systems, LLC, a company that produces state-of-the-art records management software for local law enforcement agencies. In-Synch Systems has rapidly expanded since its inception in 1999 and is currently serving clients across the country. The company's top product is a records management system that allows law enforcement officers to access and share critical intelligence when they are in the field. In-Synch Systems has provided its products to government agencies for use in federally funded law enforcement programs that supply police agencies with critical software.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Farra has exemplified the remarkable accomplishments of which America's entrepreneurs are capable. This week, he will testify before the House Small Business Committee to share his story. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in honoring him for the extraordinary work he has done for the small business economy. His efforts demonstrate that if given the right resources, America's small businesses can be the catalysts that lift our economy from the current downturn and put us on the road to recovery.

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IN RECOGNITION OF SPORTS-  
CASTER DON LADAS' RETIREMENT

### HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday May 19, 2009*

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Don Ladas for his service to Joliet, Illinois for over fifty years as an unparalleled sports voice on 1340 WJOL Radio and working for the Herald News, which has made him a sports icon in Will County. Ladas, WJOL's longest full-time employee in history, has recently announced his retirement. Out of all of WJOL's radio legends over the years, none have had the staying power and impact that Don Ladas has had.

For forty-seven years, Ladas has covered a wide variety of sports for WJOL including bowling, football, basketball, baseball, and softball, and has broadcasted thousands of local high school sporting events. He was the host of the oldest bowling show in the United

States called, "Ten Pin Topics," which aired Monday through Saturday. In addition to his daily bowling show, Ladas also hosted a weekly sports program called, "Shooting the Breeze." For the past thirty years, Ladas also has been the editor and publisher of his own monthly magazine called "Will County Sportsman."

His professionalism and his dedication to sports have earned him a place of recognition in the following: the Illinois Sportscasters Hall of Fame, the Illinois Basketball Hall of Fame, the Illinois State Bowling Hall of Fame, the Joliet Junior College Hall of Fame, the Joliet and Will County Hall of Pride, the Will County Bowling Hall of Fame, and the Minor League and Pro Football National Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio for his work in the media. Also, in July of 2008, author Gary Seymour published a book following Ladas' career entitled, *The Voice of Joliet: the Life and Times of Hall of Fame Radio Sportscaster Don Ladas*.

As one of the most revered figures in Joliet's sports scene history, sportscaster Don Ladas has left his mark on the world of radio and sportscasting and will serve as an inspiration to all individuals just entering the mass media field of broadcasting. It is with great pride that I recognize all of his many accomplishments upon the event of his retirement.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, on May 18, 2009, I missed rollcall votes numbered 267, 268, and 269.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 267, a resolution congratulating Camp Dudley YMCA of Westport, New York, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary; 268, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act; and, 269, a resolution recognizing the importance of the Child and Adult Care Food Program and its positive effect on the lives of low-income children and families.

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RECOGNIZING COMMISSIONER  
DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE FOR  
RECEIVING THE ITU "WORLD  
TELECOMMUNICATION & INFOR-  
MATION SOCIETY AWARD"

### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate, Federal Communications Commission member from 2005 to 2008, on the occasion of her receipt of the 2009 International Telecommunication Union (ITU) "Telecommunication & Information Society Award."

The World Telecommunication & Information Society Award is presented by the ITU in recognition of individuals or institutions that have made a significant contribution to promoting, building, or strengthening an individual-focused, development-oriented and knowledge-based information society. The 2009 award